Research proposal

1. Title

A Study of Disparities in the Development of the Districts identified under Backward Region Grants Fund (BRGF) Programme in the Rural Maharashtra.

2. Name of the Research Scholar

Ms. Medha D. Joshi; PRN (SIRI): 13069001006

3. Name of the Guide

Dr. O. P. Shukla, Principal, NDA, Pune

4. Submitted to

Symbiosis International University, Pune

5. Date of Submission: May 24, 2014

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Study of Disparities in the Development of the Districts identified under Backward Region Grants Fund (BRGF) Programme in Rural Maharashtra.

I. Introduction depicting need and relevance of the proposed work

The area selected for proposed study has distinguished role to play in the planned development of every country/state. This proposal intends to study the disparities in the Development of the districts identified under Backward Region Grants Fund (BRGF) Programme in Rural Maharashtra.

The theme of Disparities in the Development or Socio Economic Disparities has been researched in theoretical and empirical terms extensively as 'Regional disparities', and have raised several terms such as 'backwash effect', 'gap-widening', 'bridging the gap', 'disadvantaged regions', 'backward area' etc.[1] Backward area term is, generally, used to designate areas that do not getting benefitted through general development process. Regional Imbalances or Disparities in development between different States/ Areas/ Districts is common and existed everywhere in the world and have become global phenomenon including the socialist countries like Russia and China[2] and rich countries too of the world, like, the U.S.A., England, France, and Italy etc. Thus the problem of disparities in development and/or backwardness has appealed to all planners and researchers. This study proposes analysis and explanation on the disparities in development and how those are evaluated.

Economic disparities affect character of social life, the nature of the political process, and the priorities of the state. Extreme, inequality in economic growth weaken the nurturing of development competencies within the society. Socio-Economic divisions influence at great extent on outcomes of social provisions, largely in rural area[3]. Huge poverty and disparity is due to the inability of resources causing welfare to reach all part of the country[4].

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[1] Raikhy P S, in *Foreword* of "Regional Disparities In Economic Development", Policies and Prospects For Balanced Regional Development by Rajinder Kumar Gulati, (1999),

[2] Gulati Rajinder Kumar,(1999), "Regional Disparities in Economic Development", *Deep and Deep Publications Pvt Ltd*

[3] Jean Dreze, Amartya Sen ,'India Economic Development and Social Opportunity' , *Oxford Publication*

[4] Pavan K Varma, When Growth divides, deccan chronicle, 04 Aug 2013

"Growth mediated development" as voiced by Jean Drèze and Dr Amrtya Sen, emphasize that economic development should have true effect on the sectors directly help improving life of the poor. Over more than half a century of planned development in India, many efforts at removal of Backwardness have been devised. This equity-promoting role of the State appeals for initiatives to identify and remove gaps in the provision of basic services, infrastructure for human development with a view to ensure that all regions / sub-regions and groups have equitable access to the benefits of development[5]. It is argued that various economic arrangements are of central importance to the presence or absence of 'social opportunities'[6]. Policy makers always fight for impartial allocation of efforts to achieve uniformity in economic growth and even human development. Still there is not equality in available as well as catered resources of any state/region/area which bring economic autonomy and socio-economic equality for any state/area. History has proven many times, in the growth process, the best and the strongest will receive the major share of the resources, and as a result the rich will become richer and the poor poorer[7].

Backward Region Grants Fund (BRGF): Government has launched Backward Region Grants Fund (BRGF), a 100 % Centrally Sponsored Programme, since 2007 aim to redress regional imbalances in the development. One of the two funding windows of the BRGF consist an untied development grants to Panchayats, which are used to address critical gaps in the development identified through the participatory and integrated planning process.

The implementation of this programme for Maharashtra started in 2009, with receiving additional financial resources for 12 identified backward districts from four Administrative Divisions having 126 Blocks and 9513 Village Panchayats. Table 1 gives the details of the Block Panchayats and Village Panchayats covered under this programme in 12 identified districts.

Though the districts, which are identified as backward for inclusion in BRGF programme, there is wide disparity between these districts and the blocks within districts. There are wide variations in poverty rates, in the blocks within these districts,

[5] Administrative Reforms committee 7th report. Government of India, Chapter 11.

[6] Jean Dreze, Amartya Sen,(), India Development and Participation, *Oxford Publication* in Chapter Social Opportunities and Human Agency, pg 6

[7] Economic in Social Commission For Asia and Pacific in their publication " Reducing Disparities: Balanced Development of Urban and Rural Areas and Regions Within The Countries of Asia and The Pacific, Chapter 1, Pg 11,

which have a much higher incidence of poverty with higher shares of STs, disparities in per capita income and deprivation in social indicators such as health, nutrition and education. Proposed study attempts to assess spread of effect of backwardness and levels of development in these identified districts of Maharashtra under BRGF programme.

Table 1: Division wise districts included in BRGF programme

Divisions	Number of Districts	Name of the District	Number of Blocks	Number of Village Panchayats
Amravati	2	Amravati	14	848
		Yavatmal	16	1207
	Division Total		**30**	**2055**
Aurangabad	3	Aurangabad	9	862
		Hingoli	5	565
		Nanded	16	1306
	Division Total		**30**	**2733**
Nagpur	4	Bhandara	7	541
		Chandrapur	15	848
		Gadchiroli	12	467
		Gondia	8	556
	Division Total		**42**	**2412**
Nashik	3	Ahmednagar	14	1315
		Dhule	4	551
		Nandurbar	6	513
	Division Total		**24**	**2379**
State's Total			**126**	**9579**

II. Review of Literature:

Primary Literature review initiated for conceptual clarification and terminology interpretation from searching on key words 'Social opportunity', 'Backward area', 'Regional imbalances', 'Development Disparities' and 'BRGF', Then further search for exploring approaches of study is repeated with words "Levels of Development", "Indicators of Development/Backwardness" "Identifying, Measuring Disparities/ imbalances in development", "Development Index" etc.

Literature review explored the Books, Papers in Journals and the reports of the various committees by Government of India, Other State's reports on regional imbalances, research studies on this subject, Human Development Reports of the States, Evaluation reports of the programmes and many published books. All relevant reports and papers published in Journals like Economic and Political Weekly, Journal of Regional and Planning, Indian Streams Research Journal and many online publications about development/backwardness with special reference to backwardness in Districts of Maharashtra were referred.

Conceptual clarity of 'Regional disparity'[8] commenced with study of the books on development economics. Published reports of the committees set up by Planning Commission of India, Central and State Governments, Academic Institutions, Administrative Training Institutions of States, International Funding Agencies such as World Bank, UNDP etc. These reports were studied for analysis, facts, figures, impact assessment and performance evaluations of various programmes. Papers published in Journals helped for valuable guidance in methodology to be adopted, time to time process, presentation of concepts etc. Papers in Journals were typically helpful on technical concepts about development/backwardness with special reference to assess spread of effect of backwardness and with reference to Maharashtra state. Common approach to identify variables followed by most of the committees/studies was firstly on the economic growth and later on the human development indicators which affect the quality of life. Economic growth factors such as Gross Domestic product.

The methods, devised in various studies and reports of different committees appointed by Governments of India and State Government and researchers too, are of measuring disparities in development

A book by Brahme, et al (1975), "Regional Planning for Marathwada", on relative levels of development of Greater Mumbai, Pune region, Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra published by the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics Pune helped to understand the evidences of imbalance in the development since post-independence. The report of 'Fact Finding Committee on Regional Imbalances in Maharashtra' (1984) by Government of Maharashtra, under chairmanship of Prof. V. M. Dandekar, popularly known as Dandekar Committee report or FFC report, was the

[8] India Development, Selected Regional Perspectives, edited by Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen

first systematic attempt to articulate the nature and extent of disparities in development. The FFC have elaborated their own approach to the problems of regional disparities. The references detailed in the report are from way back 'State Reorganization Committee of Government of India' in December 1953, National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas (1981) and many other committee reports eg.- Pande Committee (1968), Chakrawarty Committee and many Government documents such as Nagpur Agreement, Sixth Five year Plan. Data from NSSO surveys for six years is used for analysis. Committee has selected District as a unit for analysis in their approach to study the problem of regional development and disparities. Committee has selected combination of economic indicators and demographic indicators to examine disparities in development and to monitor inequalities. Economic indicators broadly classified into 'Commodity Producing Sector' and 'Non-Commodity Producing Sector' for computing estimates of State domestic Product[9]. Commodity producing sector included Primary sectors like Agriculture, Forestry, Animal husbandry, Mining and Secondary sectors such as registered & unregistered manufacturing, electricity, Gas and Water supply. Whereas non-commodity producing sector includes construction, banking, tourism, trade, administration, other services like education, health etc. The Committee worked out the gaps in infrastructure development vis-à-vis the State average in 29 sub-sectors in the three regions and the funds required to eliminate the backlog.

Seeta Prabhu and P C Sarkar (1992), "Identification of Levels of Development, Case of Maharashtra", *Economic and Political Weekly.* The study in this paper has identified four broad sectors namely, Agriculture, Industry, Human Resources and infrastructure each having five variables, totally 20 indicators. First two sectors represent to economic growth and later two to the quality of life which support to the economic growth. Scope of the study was 29 selected districts out of total 30 districts as the district of Greater Bombay was omitted from the analysis due to its metropolitan character. The said paper helped in great extent to study how to identify variables and explore methodology. In Methodology, the district was chosen as unit of analysis rather than four identified regions namely, Marathwada, Vidarbh, Konkan and Rest of Maharashtra. Seeta Prabhu and Sarker as well as the Fact Finding Committee adopted three most commonly used methods, viz, indexing, ranking and principle component in the study. Ranking is used

[9] Fact Finding Committee (1984), Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra.

for assigning rank scores to individual indicators and aggregating them at the desired level. Indexing method is considered for expressing each indicator a percentage to the average for the 29 selected districts. Principle Component method was used to derive the Component scores for each of the four sector. Calculation of values with these methods categorized districts in the 29 selected districts of Maharashtra for the aggregate level of development. In the final classification, 11 districts were identified as being highly developed, while three districts were considered as belonging to the middle level of development. The remaining 15 districts were classified underdeveloped. The Chakravarty Committee had followed all these three methods to identify "Core Backward" districts. These methods include indicators representing, agriculture, industries and social sectors.

A volume of essays prepared for the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the UN University (UNU/WIDER) edited by Jean Drèze & Amartya Sen (1997), "Indian development, Selected Regional Perspectives' *Oxford University Press,* helped to focus on perspectives of economic development in India with illustrations of some of the states such as Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal. The studies highlight diversity in regional development within India and lessons from the same. An analysis of widespread deprivation in India and stress to go for market oriented reforms to accelerate economic growth is particularized in essay by Amartya Sen, 'Radical Needs and Moderate Reforms'. Penalties of inaction are explained by Jean Drèze and Haris Gazdar in the chapter 'Uttar Pradesh, The Burden of Inertia'. The study explores the comparative analysis of how U.P. has performed in different fields in comparison with other states. The said essay also describes the causes of underdevelopment such as low living conditions, ineffective public action, educational backwardness and some of its social and political roots. Some other essays in this compilation such as 'Agrarian Policies and Rural Development' with illustration of West Bengal by Sunil Sengupta and Haris Gazdar, 'On Kerala's Development Achievements' by V K Ramchandran, 'Mortality, Fertility and Gender Bias in India' by Mamta Murthi, Anne Catherine Guio and Jean Drèze were also useful to understand the concept of development.

Rajinder Kumar Gulati (1999), '*Regional Disparities in Economic Development'*, Deep and Deep Publications Pvt. Ltd. Author has explored the concept of regional disparity in Industries (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary) and in overall economic development. Writer has discussed the policies on backwardness in Five Year Plans and prospects of

regional disparities. The study is based on secondary data and covers a period of 30 years from 1960-61 to 1990-91 Period. Seventeen major States of India are defined as region, on the basis of data availability, political and administrative considerations. The regional disparities have been examined mainly on three points of time i.e. for 1970-71, 1980-81 and 1990-91 by applying Factor Analysis, Discriminant Analysis, Correlation and Regression Analysis. Findings of the study indicated the percentage share of primary sector to net domestic product has been consistently declining during the period. There is high disparities in the development of primary sector. The percentage share of secondary sector to net domestic product indicated increasing move during 1961-91. Service sector expanded in the all states during 1981-91, hence there is comparatively less regional disparities in tertiary sector during the study period.

The report on Performance Evaluation of Statutory Development Boards (SDBs) in Maharashtra (1995) by Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission, Government of India. This report is followed after FFC report (1984). Though, the Government of Maharashtra did not officially accept the recommendations of FFC, some plan funds were being allocated each year for removal of infrastructure backlogs, in keeping with its overall findings. SDBs were constituted for Marathwada, Vidarbh and Rest of Maharashtra regions in exercise of the power of the President under Article 371 (2) of the Constitution, following a Resolution of the State Legislature. SDBs were constituted to take call on regional disparities and suggest strategies for their removal in a time-bound manner. After formation of SDBs, the Governor constituted the Indicators and Backlog Committee (IBC) in 1995 for identifying the indicators of regional development, quantum of physical and financial backlog and the mechanism for its removal. The most of data source of this report s from these two committees, FFC and IBC. This evaluation of SDBs is based on the secondary information of annual reports of SDBs, Government publications, State's Planning Department, SDBs Secretariat office and the reports of various Committees set-up by the Boards. functioning of the SDBs and reconciling of the data based on discussions with Senior Officers, functionaries of SDBs and planning department.

- Methodology adopted for analysis was two approaches i.e. pre-Board position and post-Board position. Total 9 sectors (and 29 sub-sectors/indicators) dealt by FFC and IBC Committees examined for this purpose: (1) roads, (2) irrigation, (3) village electrification, (4) general education, (5) technical

education, (6) health services, (7) water supply, (8) land development and soil conservation and (9) veterinary services. An assessment is also made of the role and performance of the Boards, State's Planning Department and Governor's office. The reference period of the report period is from year 1994-95 i.e. from the setting up of the SDBs to year 2001-2002.

- Report compares sector wise backlog and finds that irrigation, roads and water supply are three main sectors having considerable backlog and also analyses the index of disparity in Vidarbha and Marathwada, which is shown increased by 28% and 29% respectively and in Rest of Maharashtra declined by 33%. The report constitutes the functions of SDBs, their working arrangement and their strategy of implementation. The report is basically sharing the detailed findings, experience of Maharashtra and the lessons of the state for other States where large inter-regional development disparities may exist. The conclusion of the Study pointed out that SDBs discharged their assigned functions and responsibilities convincingly and also have brought about important changes in the planning process of Maharashtra for balanced regional development.

Kurian N J, Abdul Shaban, (2000), "Widening Regional Disparities in India, Some Indicators", *Economic and Political Weekly,* February 12, 2000. The paper compares the States on the identified indicators in two categories, namely, Development indicators and Economic indicators. Development indicators included demographic profile such as percentage of urban population, female literacy, IMR expectation of life at birth, whereas economic indicators included investment proposals by States, expenditure incurred, revenues collected by States and infrastructure development in the State. Data source used in this paper are reports of Planning Commission of India, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Industries, and Central Statistical Organization etc. The paper states that Maharashtra is typical example of the state where overall development is good in terms of almost all development indicators, but extreme regional disparities exist. State is having high female literacy ratio, mostly urbanized, second highest in manufacturing but have the least share of NSDP from agriculture. Being progressive state, and though Per Capita Income and most of the development indicators are at high score, only state having high percentage share of poor above national average, Maharashtra is a case study of intra-state disparities

Report of Fact Finding Team on Vidharbha (2006) set up by Planning Commission

Government of India. This report is prepared to study the causes of Regional Disparities and Rural Distress in Maharashtra with particular reference to Vidharbha. Planning Commission has been raising the issue of backlog in development of the backward regions from time to time with the State of Maharashtra.

- The report analyzed the development indicators of Marathwada and Vidarbha regions firstly on geographical area, rainfall and degree of temperature in compared to Rest of Maharashtra. Then these regions are compared on demographic and development indicators such as Population Composition, proportion of SC, ST population, Agriculture, Irrigation, Administrative set-up, Literacy rate and education facilities, Health Institutes, Per Capita Income, Transport and Communication, Industries and Cooperatives to those of Rest of Maharashtra. The backlog analysis in the development in each of the sector in Vidarbha and Marathwada is compared with Rest of Maharashtra. Report also assessed impact of special funds and assistance on district wise and sector wise regional development. The main recommendations in the report are classified into Short Term/Immediate, Intermediate and Long Term Measures.
- Short term measures were more focus on distribution of appropriate seeds, fertilizer or pesticide within the cap of the package, improvement in the farming facilities, provision of credit, regularizing lending, waiving off institutional credit, water harvesting, conservation and measures to strengthen Irrigational Backlog. It is also recommended that a non-lapsable special budget head may be created for backlog removal for the equitable distribution of resources among the different regions.
- Intermediate Measures (Within two years) included detailed regional development plans based on the local resources and the felt needs for each of the regions.
- Long Term Measures included Procurement and controlling Pricing of cotton, Value Addition of cotton textile mills, PPP initiatives, Empowerment of Framer growers, Contributory Fund and Self Help Groups, Crop Insurance etc.

Mid Term Appraisal Report of Ninth Plan by Planning Commission of India drew attention to wide disparities among the States and among districts within State. Pockets of low economic growth and human development were identified as key areas which affect overall growth and development.

Mid Term Appraisal Report of Tenth Plan detailed the issues and strategies of Regional Disparities. Policies of investment in less developed regions and income & employment generation were promoted in national planning strategy from the very beginning. Ensuring a greater share in Central finances for backward regions through the transfer formulae is the other mechanism used by Planning commission and Finance Commission[10]. This is emerged in two ways -Firstly, proper identification of backward areas and targeting those with additional resources and investments to help overcome infrastructural deficiencies. Secondly, improving overall environment for economic growth through infrastructural interventions, institutional reforms and appropriate incentive structures in these identified backward areas.

Hemant Saikiya (2012), 'Regional Inequalities of Social Sector, Development in India', *Rumanian Journal of Regional Disparities*, Volume 6, No.2 Winter 2012. The author has used non parametric approach, Data Envelop Analysis (DEA) for the analysis of regional inequalities. This approach has derived from Input variables and Output variables. Input variables include Per Capita average expenditure in social sector (input1), Number of schools per lakh population (input2), Access of safe drinking water facility (input 3) and Output variable include Literacy percentage (output 1), Sex Ratio (output 2), Infant survival Rate (output 3), Children between 0-3 age group without malnutrition (output 4) and population above poverty line (output 5).

A paper by Joydeep Baruha, (2012), "On Identification of Backward Blocks", *IDR*, extended more knowledge on level of measuring backwardness to Blocks from districts.

Recently published 'Report Of The Committee For Evolving A Composite Development Index Of States', by Government Of India Ministry Of Finance, September 2013, under chairmanship of Raghuram Rajan, found most useful for studying backwardness of the States, which also proposes a general method for allocating funds from the Centre to the States based both on a State's development needs as well as its development performance. The said Committee Report recommends that each of the states get a fixed basic minimum allocation of 0.3 per cent of overall funds, which will be added share from their need assessment and performance evaluation. Methodology used to assess need is on the basis of

[10] Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan by GoI, Planning Commission, 2005

underdevelopment index. The methodology recommended in this report to allocate funds across states based on need, in line with recommendations of previous committees, where Need is based on a Simple Index of (under) development. Variables and methodology developed by this report helped to understand selection of variables and methodology to be adopted in the proposed research. The index developed in this report is an average of the ten sub-components identified. Less developed States rank higher on the index, and would get larger allocations based on the need criteria. The under development index is developed on eight variables namely,

i) Per Capita GSDP(PCI)
ii) Health (IMR)
iii) Education (Female Literacy Rate, School Attendance Ratio)
iv) Poverty ratio (Tendulkar)
v) % SC/ST population
vi) Urbanization Ratio
vii) Per capita electricity availability /consumption
viii) Household amenities (drinking water, sanitation, banking, telephone facility and specified assets)
ix) Connectivity Index (Rail and road per unit surface area and population)

State's share in population and in area is given weightage 80 per cent and 20 per cent respectively to get the allocation. Underdevelopment index is recommended to update every after five years and performance to be measured relative fall in the index over time. Change in fraction of SC/ST population was not a meaningful measure of performance, hence this variable is dropped while computing performance index. Total of 25 per cent of total allocation is to be amounted on performance parameter.

III. Scope and Statement of the Problem

Regional disparities are collective outcome of the geographical barriers and administrative thwarting resulted into lack of development infrastructure and overall development. The concept of regional disparities and imbalances can be understood in terms of unequal resource endowments, uneven human development, inadequate infrastructure and poor budgetary resources among the states and within the state.

The scope of the proposed study is to measure disparities in development of districts in Maharashtra selected under scheme Backward Region Grants Fund (BRGF). Hence the scope of BRGF programme and its coverage in Maharashtra will be reviewed at extent in this study. The study also aims to analyze the levels of backwardness within these BRGF districts and also plans to examine the relationship between disparities within district and development components of those Districts. The study also aims to include pointing out several State specific and district specific development factors which have greater influence or major causes for disparities.

The scope of the proposed study is limited to comparative analysis of backwardness in BRGF districts of Maharashtra having geographical, social and economic diversities.

The Government of India has identified 12 districts of Maharashtra which are economically backward and socially deprived for the implementation of Programme Backward Region Grants Fund. To promote the development, to change growth prospects and to reduce the inter district; BRGF aims to intervene with specific plans and policies and allocation of funds in these very districts. The programme is being implemented in the state since last five years; yet the extension of the reductions in the disparities is still unsatisfactory, hence there is a need for more focused intervention and time bound implementation of programmes in these districts.

Reference period of the proposed study is since start of the BRGF implementation in the state, i.e. from year 2009-10 to current year, i.e. 2013-14.

IV. Objectives of the study

Equalities in development are necessary to redress imbalances in development for poverty alleviation and to support sustainable development. Broad objectives of the proposed study are-

(1) To identify factors causing for development / backwardness of the 12 identified districts for implementation of BRGF programme.

(2) To probe into levels of backwardness and development among these districts.

(3) To analyze how BRGF programme is being implemented in these districts and to study the changing pattern of Development in these districts since the commencement of the BRGF programme.

(4) To suggest measure for mitigating the development disparities in these district at the Block level.

V. Hypotheses or Research Questions

It is assumed that inequality in the distribution of resources results into imbalance in the development. This study proposal states that there are disparities in the development among and within the selected districts of Maharashtra. This study proposal further affirms that, apart from the commonly accepted economic and social indicators, there are state/district specific variables which result into the inequalities in the development. Implementation of BRGF programme in these very districts was helpful to bring the balance in the development.

The Government of India has identified 12 backward districts of Maharashtra for implementation of Programme Backward Region Grants Fund in view that those districts are economically very backward and also socio economically deprived as other aspects of development / backwardness. Hence to promote the development in these very districts, Government started its intervention with specific plans and policies and allocation of funds.

As a result of these measures from Government side growth prospects have changed and the inter district and intra district (Block level) disparities in development have been reduced.

But the extension of these reductions in the disparities is still unsatisfactory, hence there is a need for more justified allocation of resources, focused intervention and time bound programmes implementation in these districts.

Research questions for the study are framed as below:-

Research Q 1: Do the disparities in development exist in the selected districts of Maharashtra?

Research Q 2: What are the factors causing development and backwardness? Are those factors influencing development of the selected districts of Maharashtra?

Research Q 3: Are there any state /district specific factors causing backwardness of that district? If yes, what are those?

Research Q 4: What are the levels of disparities in these districts and what are the levels of disparities in the blocks (Sub-districts) within these selected districts?

Research Q 5: Whether the implementation of BRGF programme is beneficial to reduce the disparities in these districts? If yes how? OR How far is the development pattern of these selected districts changed since inception of the BRGF programme?

Research Q 6: What is the course of actions suggested to lessen these disparities in development?

VI. Methodology, Tools and Techniques

The proposed research work will analyze and find out firstly, how the development in these selected districts in Maharashtra is emerged over the reference period of time and secondly how the disparities, still are in existence between these districts and within the districts (at sub district/block level).

The districts identified under BRGF programme are on the basis of economic indicators which cause the development directly, as well as indirect indicators like Health, and Education, which pertains to quality of life. There are some districts which have Sub-districts/blocks with wide differences in these indicators. Thus the proposed study considers Block as the unit of development for the analysis than a District. This study proposes identifying State/District specific indicators of backwardness and measuring intra-district disparities in BRGF Districts of Maharashtra for the reference period of this study. Formal Research methodology is proposed to be explored in the study.

Considering the core purpose of this proposed study to calculate disparities in development of these identified districts of Maharashtra under BRGF, it is planned to follow the same three methods, which were adopted by most of the committees/studies, named, (a) Ranking Method (b) Index Method (c) Principal Component Analysis using certain State and District specific indicators, and also applying to extended level of development by measuring development difference between different blocks in these district.

VII. Identification of variables

The proposed study considers district and then the block as the unit of analysis. The required data is compiled at various departments of the state government; economics and statistics department, census, surveys and studies will be used. Hence the study is based on secondary data will cover all twelve districts covered under BRGF programme. Variables which closely impact the development and some District /State

Specific variables/factors, which act as main cause of under-development will be considered for inclusion in the analysis. Some District specific characteristics plays an important role in causing the backwardness of the districts, for example, large number of farmer's suicide due to debt trap, drought prone areas, extreme migration due to lack of livelihood opportunities, hard hilly area, concentration of socially weaker and disadvantaged sections etc. are the reasons of backwardness in particular areas in Maharashtra. Attempt would be made to consider minimum one district specific variable causing from economic, human development sector and provincial factors. The data source is mainly census, economic survey of the State, Official Reports and Study reports. So the selection of variables should demonstrate dominating components in development both Economic and Human as well as in the availability of data source. Descriptions of variables to be selected with the rational for selecting those and proposed data source is as below :-

Table 2: Proposed variables for measuring backwardness in the study

Sector/ Development component	**Proposed variables for measuring backwardness**	**Rational / Justification**
Economy	Per Capita Income	As this is classical character directly linked measures Purchasing power and well-being of society
	Employment a. Employment in formal and informal sectors b. % of Agriculture workers upon total workers	Employment pattern plays crucial role in the economic development
Poverty	BPL population proportion	BPL population ratio to total population in District &/ Block is rightly representing the economical backwardness
	HHL having Electric connection	Households having electric connection and using LPG Gas for cooking reflect in sound status of masses
	HHL using LPG gas for cooking	

Education	Female literacy	Better educated and healthier human resource represents better quality of life, which is the outcome of higher investment in education and health facilities.
	Enrollment ratio / School Attendance Ratio	
Health	IMR	Maharashtra being progressive State, simple access to health or education should not be the indicative to measure disparities within State and Districts. Hence advanced indicators in this sector may be considered for analysis.
	Institutional deliveries	
Basic Infrastructure	Banking facility coverage	Coverage of availability only of banking facility in the District/ Block may be considered as monetary wellbeing of region/area but not for individual financial capabilities, as MGNEGRS has made it mandatory for all labours registered for bank account. Thus this variable is considered in provision of basic infrastructure
	% of HHL using Toilet	Use of Toilets and safe Drinking water indicate accessibility water and sanitation facilities of those areas
	Drinking Water % of villages with safe drinking water	
Connectivity Infrastructure	% of villages having paved approach road Or Road length per lakh population / Approach road coverage	Progress of any area/ District is always depends upon economic overheads incurred for infrastructure of communication and transport means. Adequacy of transport, communication facilities, power technology and banking, areas get special advantage in development projects.
	Railway connectivity in maximum 25 km. from any village	
	Block head quarter distance	
Geographical variables	Average Rainfall	Geographical factors play important role in the development
District Specific variables	Drought prone	Chronically drought prone areas are geographical impediment in the development.

	Farmer's suicide incidences due to debt trap	This phenomenon is very specific in some districts which causes impediment in development
	% of Tribal population SC Population	Concentration of socially deprived community also is also recognized benchmark of under development.
	Agriculture: % of Land under irrigation	In agrarian economy area under irrigation is the tool to gauge the development

Any local/district specific or other variables which may be found relevant in the study process will be considered for analysis including above mentioned variables.

Data Source: Data collection will be from Public/ Government sources such as Central and State Government's reports, census, surveys and selected research studies reviews. Primary data will be involved in inclusion of Case Studies.

VIII. Schedule of the proposed work

Tentative schedule of this study is proposed as below..

S. N.	Activity	Detailing	Timeline
1.	Presentation of proposal to DC committee	1. Preparation of synopsis 2. Approval by research Guide	Feb 2014 to April 2014
		3. Proposal submission to SIU 4. Presentation to DC Committee	May 14 to June14
		5. Implementing the feedback from the Research Committee if any and redesigning research proposal accordingly	July 14 to August 14
2.	Data Collection	1. Pilot data collection for one District 2. Arranging pilot data and Analysis of Pilot data	August 14 to October 14
		1. Collection of data for the sample of the study 2. Collection of case studies	October 14 to December 14
3.	Analysis of data collected	1. Rearranging data 2. Making necessary modifications in the instrument. 3. Detailed statistical analysis and interpretation with controls of the data collected for pilot study, in the appropriate methodology.	January 15 March 15
4.	Gap filling	1. Rearranging the data 2. Newly developed variables if any 3. Collection of data for Missing links,	April 15 to June 15

		4. On-going collection for references	
5.	Chapters development	1. Completion of the Chapter – Literature Review.	July 15 to August 15
		2. Completion of the 1st draft of Interpretation of the results and References 3. Completion of the 1st draft of the thesis	September 15 to October 15
		4. Completion of the thesis writing 5. Getting approval from the Research Committee	November 15 to January 16
6.	Submission	1. Submission of the Ph. D. thesis.	February 16 to April 16

IX. Tentative Chapters Scheme

1. Chapter -1:Introduction (Concept, Theories of disparities in development, and evidence of Disparities in development , Development Disparities in Maharashtra , Backward Region Development Programme)
2. Chapter -2:Review of Literature (Studies, publications on this concept, Need of Research/ Gaps in Research)
3. Chapter -3: Scope of the study (Profile of districts covered under BRGF Programme in Maharashtra , Research questions)
4. Chapter -4:Methodology, tools and techniques
5. Chapter -5:Data Analysis (Detailed Analysis of data using statistical tools, case studies of development/backwardness covered under BRGF programme)
6. Chapter -6:Constraints (Limitations of the study)
7. Chapter -7:Conclusions and summery (Discussion of the research findings/inferences, Policy Suggestions, and conclusions Scope for future research References

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Appendix

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